

## PROPOSAL TO EXPAND SLATED ROW SPECIAL SCHOOL TO INCLUDE A NEW SITE AT KENTS HILL PARK

Annex D of Delegated Decision Report for 14 March 2017

DfE Guidance <b><u>Making prescribed alterations to maintained schools</u></b> , April 2016		
1	The reasons for the expansion, rationale for this approach and this particular site?	Slated Row is judged 'Outstanding' and specialises in supporting a range of complex needs in addition to Moderate Learning Difficulties. White Spire also caters for children with complex needs alongside MLD. Whilst Slated Row has been over-subscribed by only 10 places, this cannot be used as the indicator for understanding demand for places across our special schools. Special schools that had physical space to expand have been able to exceed their funded place numbers. It needs to be noted that Slated Row did not have space to expand, so was unable to significantly exceed funded numbers. The school already had a vision to develop its provision so with the opportunity created at Kents Hill Park, it was proposed to expand onto a satellite site. The new special school is commissioned by the council specifically to meet our shortage of places for pupils of secondary school age with complex needs. On its own, a 50 place special school may not offer the same viability as it does when part of a local larger organisation.
2	How will the new site be used and which age groups/pupils will it serve?	The existing site caters for ages 4 to 19. The new site will cater only for secondary school age, thus moving pupils aged 14 to 19 (Key Stages 4/5) to the new site. This operational structure is more effective than mirroring all Key Stages across two sites.
3	What will the admission arrangements be?	Admissions to special schools are handled by the SEN casework team who place pupils according to their type of need and age. It is not based on where the family lives unless there is more than one suitable provision to choose from.
4	Will there be movement of pupils between sites? How will whole school activities be managed?	There will be some shared and whole school activities on both sites, e.g. Enterprise days, celebrations, indoor PE, drama, forest school. Slated Row already has transportation and safe arrangements routinely in place.
5	Will staff be contracted to work on both sites? Will the new site have the same governing body and school leadership team?	Staff will be part of one structure with one leadership team and one governing body. The governing body would agree a structure to best meet operational and curriculum needs across both sites.
6	Will facilities and resources be shared between the two sites?	The governing body and leadership team will have between March and December 2017 to plan resources for the development and operational phases. There is also scope to share wider facilities of the adjacent secondary school.

7	Is the new site in an area that is easily accessible to the community that the current school serves?	Special school catchment areas cover the whole borough since pupils are placed according to their need rather than geographically. The <u>Home to School Transport policy</u> applies to all families equally. Due to better public transport accessibility of Kents Hill Park compared to Wolverton, more students should be able to independently travel to school, developing their skills and making a step into life beyond Slated Row.
<p><b>DfE <u>Guidance for decision makers</u>, April 2016</b>  <b>(A) Factors relating to making changes to special needs provision</b></p>		
8	How does this proposal take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision /settings? How does it take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN/ disabilities and the views expressed on it?	There is a strong preference for the specialist education provided by Slated Row and the 50 extra places address an existing shortage. Some pupils who have needed to go to out of area schools due to our shortage of places will be able to access a school nearer to where they live. Slated Row parents and local parent/carer groups were included in both the informal and formal consultation.
9	Does this expansion take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe?	The reason the council proposes expansion of Slated Row school is to provide the SEN/Disability education and learning environment for which Slated Row has been judged 'Outstanding'.
10	Does this expansion support the LA's strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people?	Kents Hill Park special school is close to new primary and secondary schools on the same site, so it is hoped to give opportunities for integration and joint projects.
11	Will the new site provide access to appropriately trained staff and specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community?	There will be one leadership and staff structure across both sites. Staff will be easier to recruit by being part of a larger team, especially if the new site is part of an 'Outstanding' provision. Staff will benefit in their personal development by being part of a larger organisation. Staff of the adjacent secondary school will have the opportunity for planned involvement with SEN pupils. Slated Row offers support to other schools informally and through the Denbigh Teaching School Alliance. This would be easily accessible to the new secondary and primary schools.
12	Will the expansion ensure appropriate provision for 14-19 year-olds	The new site is specifically planned for secondary age SEN pupils. The teaching styles and curriculum planning would be consistent between primary and secondary provision across the two Slated Row sites.
13	Statements of SEN (EHCPs) must be considered and all	As this is a proposal for expansion of a special school all of the pupils will have EHCPs. The informal

	parental rights must be ensured. Other interested partners, such as the Health Authority should be involved.	consultation engaged with the LA's specialist teachers, health and psychology professionals and parent/carer support groups.
<b>(B) Factors relating to all maintained schools</b>		
14	Related proposals	The new Kents Hill Park Secondary School is being built adjacent to the new special school. The special school will have its own distinct access and physical boundaries. A primary school is being built nearby on the same housing development site.
15	A school-led system with every school an academy	Only academy trusts can bid in free school presumption competitions, which would have excluded local maintained special schools from the opportunity. In a competition we would stipulate the type of SEN provision needed at the new school.
16	Demand v Need	Our high needs place planning identified a deficit of 241 places by 2020. This takes account of higher demand from population growth and the increasing complexity of needs in children and young people with SEN and/or disability. Data demonstrates a need for 40 additional places each year.
17	Education standards	Slated Row School is judged 'Outstanding'. The leadership team will ensure that the expansion does not lead to disruption of education at the current site or to the detriment of existing pupils. Expansion will allow existing staff to share their outstanding practice to the benefit of the second site and its pupils.
18	School size	The existing Slated Row site has 183 pupils on roll (November 2016) and the new site is planned for 50.
19	Equal opportunities	<u>Pupils and families</u> The provision will serve children with SEN from all over Milton Keynes according to their age and individual need. <u>Staff</u> There will be better opportunities for staff development and career choice as part of a larger organisation which will have new facilities.
20	Community cohesion	Slated Row in Wolverton is well thought of and pupils come from a wide area. Kents Hill Park is a new housing development so the link with a long-established school will be an advantage. The link with the new secondary school will be an advantage to both mainstream and SEN pupils and staff.
21	School premises and playing fields	The special school will have its own distinct playing areas and will benefit from sharing some of the sports facilities at the secondary school.